

SAN JUAN COUNTY

NOTICE OF INTENT TO OBTAIN CUSTODY

VESSEL NAME:, Hydah, WN Number Unknown
A white wooden launch sinking in Reid Harbor, Stuart Island

SAN JUAN COUNTY, acting as an authorized public entity with the authority granted in RCW 79.100, intends to take custody of the vessel described above, on August 31, 2006. The vessel is sinking and has been declared derelict/abandoned as it meets the definition of a derelict/abandoned vessel as described in RCW 79.100(1). Once custody is obtained, San Juan County is authorized to use or dispose of it in any appropriate and environmentally sound manner without further notice to the owner.

In order for the owner to retain custody of the vessel, the owner must obtain authorization to moor or anchor the vessel in its current location, move it to an anchorage area or moorage facility that has authorized the vessel, or remove the vessel from the water.

If the owner wishes to redeem the vessel once San Juan County has taken custody, the owner must commence a lawsuit to contest San Juan County's decision to take custody of the vessel, or the amount of reimbursement owed, in the superior court of the county in which the vessel was located. The lawsuit must be commenced within ten days of losing custody or the owner's right to a hearing is waived and the owner will be liable for any costs owed to San Juan County.

The costs the owner may be liable for include, but are not limited to, costs incurred exercising the authority granted in RCW 79.100.030, all administrative costs incurred by the authorized public entity during the procedure set for the in RCW 79.100.040, removal and disposal costs, and costs associated with environmental damages directly or indirectly caused by the vessel.

For more information regarding this action, contact:

Joanruth Baumann, Manager of Programs & Planning
San Juan County Public Works Department
915 Spring Street
Friday Harbor, WA 98250
360-370-0509